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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CANADA: QUEBEC MAYOR CRITICIZES BOURASSA

LIBERAL QUEBEC MAYOR LA MONTAIGNE, WHO FEARS THE LIBERALS MAY LOSE THE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 15, VIEWS PREMIER BOURASSA'S CALLING THE ELECTION THIS FALL AS A GRAVE ERROR. LA MONTAIGNE TOLD CONSULATE QUEBEC THAT THE AIR CONTROLLERS CONTROVERSY, WHICH CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION, MAKES DEFENSE OF FEDERALISM VERY DIFFICULT FOR QUEBEC POLITICIANS AND HAS PUSHED MANY WAVERING VOTERS INTO THE QUEBEC PARTY CAMP.

CONSULATE COMMENT: THE MAYOR'S FRANKNESS IN CRITICIZING BOURASSA IS A MEASURE OF THE ANXIETY MANY FEDERALISTS FEEL AS ELECTION DAY APPROACHES AND THE FEDERALIST VOTE REMAINS DIVIDED AMONG SEVERAL PARTIES. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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QUEBEC 305, 11/2.

2. JAPAN: A NEW DEFENSE PLAN

THE JAPANESE SECURITY DIVISION CHIEF TOLD EMBASSY TOKYO
THE NEWLY APPROVED JAPANESE DEFENSE PLAN CALLS FOR

MAINTAINING THE CREDIBILITY OF SECURITY AGREEMENTS WITH
THE US AND CONSOLIDATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR SMOOTH
OPERATION. SLATED TO REPLACE THE EXPIRING DEFENSE BUILD-
UP PROGRAM, THE PLAN ALSO STRESSES:

--THE NEED TO EMPHASIZE QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN
THE JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCES, NOW THAT THEY HAVE
SUFFICIENTLY EXPANDED QUANTITATIVELY;

--THE NEED TO DEVELOP A BALANCED PEACETIME FORCE
CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH LIMITED, SMALL-SCALE AG-
GRESSION; AND

--THAT FULL-SCALE AGGRESSION AGAINST JAPAN IS
UNLIKELY BECAUSE OF THE EXISTING GREAT POWER BALANCE
AND US-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PLAN REPRESENTS A TWO-YEAR EFFORT
TO DEVELOP A REALISTIC AND POLITICALLY DEFENSIBLE BASIS
FOR BUILDING A NATIONAL DEFENSE CONSENSUS. THAT THE GOJ
HAS BEEN ABLE TO ENUNCIATE JAPAN'S DEFENSE NEEDS AND
RELIANCE ON THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WITHOUT PROVOKING
THE USUAL BITTER CONTROVERSY REPRESENTS A MAJOR ACCOM-
PLISHMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 16355, 11/2.

3. IRAN-IRAQ

A. IRAN HEDGES ON GULF SECURITY CONFERENCE

FOREIGN MINISTRY MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR GENERAL SADRIEH
TOLD EMBASSY TEHRAN THAT IRAQ'S REFUSAL TO ATTEND THE
PERSIAN GULF SECURITY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO MEET IN
MUSCAT NOVEMBER 25 HAS PLACED IRAN'S OWN PARTICIPATION IN
DOUBT. ACCORDING TO SADRIEH:

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--IRAN HAS YET TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON ATTENDING
THE CONFERENCE.

--IRAQ MIGHT INTERPRET A CONFERENCE DECLARATION
ISSUED IN ITS ABSENCE AS AN UNFRIENDLY GESTURE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: GIVEN IRAN'S INTEREST IN BETTER RE-

LATIONS WITH BAGHDAD AND THE DIVERGENT VIEWS OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS ON GULF SECURITY, ANY DECLARATION PRODUCED AT THE CONFERENCE--IF IT MEETS--IS LIKELY TO BE AN ANODYNE.

B. IRANIANS STUFFING IRAQI STRAW MAN?

USINT BAGHDAD DISAGREES WITH A RECENT ECONOMIST-FOREIGN REPORT ARTICLE WHICH CLAIMS THE RECENT IRAQI/SOVIET SECRET ARMS DEAL INDICATES SERIOUSLY INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE IN IRAQ. THE INTEREST SECTION POINTS OUT THAT:

--IRAQ IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO A MEDITERRANEAN/PERSIAN GULF POLICY COORDINATED WITH THE USSR OR AGREE TO A MAJOR ;OVIET MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN IRAQ.

--SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO SOVIET MILITARY PREROGATIVES CITED IN THE ARTICLE ARE FALSE.

--IRAQI-SOVIET TENSION SEEMS TO BE INCREASING OVER SUCH ISSUES AS LEBANON, SOVIET SUPPORT FOR SYRIA, AND INTERNAL IRAQI POLITICS.

USINT SPECULATES THE EXAGGERATED ARTICLE WAS INSTIGATED BY "ONE OF THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN JUSTIFYING MAJOR PURCHASES OF SOPHISTICATED US ARMS." THAT TEHRAN HAS GIVEN THE ARTICLE HEAVY PLAY ADDS TO THAT SUSPICION. (CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 10933, 11/2 AND (SECRET) BAGHDAD 1639, 11/2.

4. GUYANA REBUILDING BURNED BRIDGES?

GUYANA HAS BEGUN TO SIGNAL ITS HOPE THAT THE PERIOD OF
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CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE US IS OVER AND THAT RELATIONS WILL RETURN TO NORMAL. EMBASSY GEORGETOWN REPORTS THAT:

--FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS EXPRESSED HIS HOPE TO CHARGE MCCOY THAT RELATIONS WILL THAW AFTER THE US ELECTIONS.

--OTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT THE RETURN OF CHARGE BLACKEN.

--FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A MONTH, THE PRESS MADE NO MENTION OF THE CUBANA CRASH.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN OUR OPINION, THE GUYANESE HAVE

GOTTEN THE MESSAGE THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE IRRESPON-
SIBLE ACCUSATIONS REGARDING OUR ROLE IN TERRORIST AC-
TIVITIES. (CONFIDENTIAL) GEORGETOWN 2186, 11/2. KISSINGER

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